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FILE: EGYPT NIE

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TAGS: EG, PINR, PINT

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF DECISION-MAKING IN EGYPT

1. WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE CURRENTLY IN INITIAL DRAFTING PHASE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE (NIE) ON EGYPT, DESIGNED TO ASSESS POTENTIAL GOE POLICY OPTIONS IN 1977 IN LIGHT OF PRESSURES AND CONSTRAINTS ON EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP. ONE SECTION OF THIS NIE WILL ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS FOLLOWING QUESTION: "WHAT ARE THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS CONTROLLING CURRENT DECISION-MAKING?"
2. CONSENSUS OF BOTH OFFICIAL AND ACADEMIC EGYPT-WATCHERS IS THAT SADAT RESERVES TO HIMSELF VAST MAJORITY OF MAJOR DECISIONS, ESPECIALLY ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. PICTURE BECOMES LESS CLEAR, HOWEVER, IN EXAMINING THE PROCESS BY WHICH HIS DECISIONS ARE REACHED. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT AND PARTICULARLY ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (A) WHO HAS SADAT'S EAR ON POLICY MATTERS AND HOW ARE THEY INFLUENCED IN TURN; (B) WHAT CONSTITUENCIES DOES SADAT PERCEIVE AS REQUIRING SATISFACTION AND IN WHAT AREAS; AND (C) WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, DOES THE NATIONAL SECURITY BUREAUCRACY PLAY. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF HOW A REVITALIZED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT AFFECT FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS.
3. TO BE OF MAXIMUM VALUE, EMBASSY'S INPUT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO DEPT BY DECEMBER 24. KISSINGER

State Department review completed